

Bloody NEWS from

578 d. 46

YORK-SHIRE:

Or, The Great

ROBBERY,

Committed by Twenty Highway-men, upon Fifteen Butchers, as they were Riding to North-Allerton Fair, killing Seven of them upon the place, to wit,

Thomas Simpson,
Ralph Green,
George Waterhouse,
Gregory Smith,

William Brand,
Edward Hewit,
Francis Miles.

And carrying away Nine hundred thirty and six pounds, and three of their party dead.

With the manner how they were pursued and surprized the same Night; the fierce Dispute between them and the Officers; wherein four more of the Thieves were kill'd, and the other thirteen apprehended, and secured in York Castle.

Two of whom confess themselves to have been Pupils to the famous Du-val, and of his Gang heretofore.

With Allaisance.

London, Printed for R. Kesse, in the Year, 1674.

Wortham

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York, County of.
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London, Printed for R. Roffe, in the Year, 1674.

ROBBERY OF THE GREAT YORK-SHIRE Bloody NEWS from

Committed by Twenty Highway-men, up-
on Fifteen Butchers, as they were Riding
to North-Allerton Fair, killing seven of
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Thomas Simpson,
Ralph Green,
George Wainwright,
Gregory Smith,
William Brand,
Edward Harris,
Francis Aldrich.



And carrying away Nine hundred
of their booty dead.
Which the manner how they were
Night; the fierce Dispute between them and the Officers;
wherein four more of the Robbers were killed,
and the other three apprehended,
and returned in two Cattle.
Two of whom confess that they have been Robbers in the same
Way, and the King's Highway.

THE Great and Bloody ROBBERY

IN
Yorkshire, &c.

Such are the wretched Days we live in, the very Dregs of Time, and Rust of an Iron Age; that nothing more frequently alarms our ears, than Tragical Stories of fresh Robberies and bloody Murthers; so resolved and obdurate in Sin are some persons hearts, that notwithstanding the Laws of God & Man; the injustice of the action in it self, and severe Animadversion on all such Criminals when apprehended; they yet persist in their lewd and abominable courses, and without any consideration of the untimely end of those great numbers which each City Sessions, and Countrey Assizes sacrifices to Justice on the Altar of a Gibet, are oftentimes so impudently brave, as to commit their Insolencies in Spight and defiance of Law; and take the Gallows for a witness (as it shall one day be the reward) of their Villanies.

Upon this Consideration perhaps some may think a relation of a Robbery and Murder, to be no great News, since they are unhappily become so rife and frequent; yet certainly in this

which we are now going to expose so many remarkable Circumstances occur (as several black Lines drawn from the helieth Center of wickedness) that we persuade our selves it will not be unworthy publique notice.

Few persons there are, whose business or curiosity have invited them to travel into, or discourse much of the North of *England*, but known, or have heard of *North-Allerton*, a Town about 24 miles beyond *Tork*, eminent; and for nothing more than the great Mart or Fair held there every *Wednesday* from *Christmas* till *June*, and the extraordinary confluence of cattle brought thither every week to be sold: The Butchers of the City of *Tork* and parts adjacent flocking thither furnish and stock themselves with all sorts of live ware.

Upon this *Erspan* fifteen Butchers on the 21. of *January*, before day, rid out of the City of *Tork*, and well knowing that few valuable Commodities are to be bought merely for good words, in a Fair, took with them very considerable sums of money, each man according to his ability and occasions, and marching in such a body had not the least Apprehension or fear of being set upon by Thieves; but whether they had prattled abroad before-hand that they were to go to such a Fair, and what store of money they would carry to lay out there, (the common indiscretion of weak-headed men, who never attempt any business without Proclamation) or whether by any other means the news of so considerable a booty became divulged, we cannot say, but too true it is, an ambuscado was laid, and a party gone out before to attend their motions; being about 16 miles from *Tork*, they overtook a melancholly Gentleman, riding fair and softly with a *Spanish* Gravity, whom they after their honest homely manner accosted and bestowed the Complement of a Good morrow upon him; to which he answered with much formality, and expressed himself not a little joyful at their good company.

Thus

Thus marching together all at once, sometimes of News, and sometimes of their Country affairs; they had soon passed about three miles further, to a place where the way was very narrow, having a high Hill on the Right-hand, and a large thick Wood on the left: Here our new fellow-traveller who brought up the Rear, was all of a sudden taken with a strange fit of Mirth, and fell a singing, which he performed so well, that the Butchers not to be behind hand with him in jollity, began to Tune their Pipes also, and in short the whole Company fell into Consort; but their Musick was quickly spoiled, being as it should seem but the signal or token that was to be given to the lurking Brotherhood, when to give the Onset: For immediately came rushing forth of the Wood nineteen persons excellently well mounted, and putting themselves half before the Company and half behind, the new admitted Traveller revolting to their party, they drew their Swords, and *Dam ye ye Dogs deliver* was the first word of command. The Butchers (a sort of rugged people not to be huff'd out of their Money with big words) resolve not to part with their purses on such easie terms, especially when so many of them were together; whereof five had Swords by their sides, and the other ten lusty baroons or Cudgles of trusty Oak; their answer therefore was short: *Gentlemen if you will have money you must fight for it*, and to shew that they intended to be as good as their words; one of the Butchers warding a pass made at his body, gave a Thief such a blow on his head as made him tumble from his Horse. This first success and thoughts of the old Proverb, *That one honest man can beat ten Thieves*, encouraged the rest, so that a most terrible conflict there was, continuing with much fury above an hour; both parties shewing extraordinary courage and Resolution, several being kill'd and wounded, but the Thieves at last perceiving little good to be done this way, betook themselves to their fire Arms, and plucking out their pistols, all at once

once cryed out. *Kill them, Kill them*, which they so far prosecuted with effect that seven of the Butchers were brought dead to the ground, and 2 others had their horses shot under them; and now against such inequality resistance was but folly, and courage phrensie, wherefore the eight that remained alive (being every one of them wounded and disabled) began to cry for quarter, and offer their purses to ransom their lives. This was accepted by the *Hero's* of the Road (of whom several were wounded and three kill'd) and forthwith the living were robed and bound, and the dead rifled, which in all made up a booty of nine hundred thirty and six pounds, with which and the bodies of their dead brethren in inquiry (to prevent discovery) they took away with them: & retirring into the woods where 'tis supposed they buried them, they immediately disappeared.

Soon after some Travellers passing that Road, were Alarm'd with the loud cries of the poor men that lay bound; but approaching nearer were at once surprized with fear and admiration to see the dead bodies; and the place all dy'd with blood; they had not time to inquire all Circumstances of this Tragedy. Their hands being first required to unbind and help the distressed men with their wounds to a Chyrurgeon, which being done and the dead bodies carried off. Hue and Cry was sent forth to all parts, and all imaginable search and inquiry made after the Felons, but no news could be heard of them, or which way they went all that day but at night the Neighborhood being filled with discourse of it, a person something related to one of the Butchers Kill'd living over against a small tipling house, which it seems they thought the safest place of retreat, observed about ten a clock, several gallants on horse back dropt into the Yard, some space of time one after the other: Hereupon a jealousy came into his head, that those might be some of that party who had committed the Robbery
 that

that day. This suspicion he acquaints a Magistrate with, who presently gives order for their apprehension, and accordingly a strong guard was raised and the house beset, but entrance being demanded was denied, which the Watch and Officers soon forced by breaking open the doors, and then a new fray began, for the Thieves with naked Rapiers stood on their own defence, the Watch with their Halberds endeavoured to knock them down, who seem'd resolved not to be taken, several shots they made with pistols but without Execution, but with their Swords divers were Wounded: Whereupon a greater Alarm being made, and fresh help coming in, order was given to fire upon them if they would not yeild, which they still refused till 4 more of them were slain on the place, & the other 13 desperately wounded in several parts of their bodies, which rendring them incapable to hold their weapons longer, caused them at last to submit, and being carryed before a Magistrate, the surviveing Butchers knew them, and swore directly against them that they were the very persons that rob'd them, whereupon they were immediately sent away to the Goal, where they now continue, expecting the Assizes to give them the due rewards of their notorious merits.

Two of them upon Examination have since acknowledged that they were first initiated in the discipline of the Road, by that famous Artist Du-Vall, who brought out of his own Countrey into England, the most gentile methods of following the high-pat, taking a Purse Alamode, mustering his Savage Arabians, and exercising them to perform their parts on all occasions with the most obliging Dexterity. For which and other excellent accomplishments, he was about five years since deservedly prefer'd at Tiburn.

FINIS.

